

Middle Class Economics: Supporting Children and Youth

The President's 2016 Budget is designed to bring middle class economics into the 21st Century. This Budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America. It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle class and help America's hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change. And it makes the critical investments needed to accelerate and sustain economic growth in the long run, including in research, education, training, and infrastructure.

These proposals will help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill, while also fulfilling our most basic responsibility to keep Americans safe. We will make these investments, and end the harmful spending cuts known as sequestration, by cutting inefficient spending and reforming our broken tax code to make sure everyone pays their fair share. We can do all this while also putting our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path. The Budget achieves about \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction, primarily from reforms to health programs, our tax code, and immigration.

The Budget takes a number of steps to support and expand opportunities for children and youth, including: expanding access to high quality early childhood education; expanding opportunities for disconnected youth; building ladders of opportunity for boys and young men; and improving and expanding access to mental health services.

Expanding Learn and Earn Strategies. The Budget includes a \$2 billion Apprenticeship Training Fund to help more employers come to the table to provide high-quality on-the-job training through apprenticeship. Of the \$2 billion Apprenticeship Training Fund, \$1.5 billion would be used to provide states and regions with resources to encourage greater employer participation in apprenticeship and make this model available to a broader range of workers. The remaining \$500 million would create an innovation fund to reward partnerships between states, cities, regions, non-profits, employers, labor unions, and training providers to expand apprenticeships. The President's Apprenticeship Training Fund proposal builds on bipartisan momentum underway to increase support for apprenticeships. The Budget also includes \$100 million in discretionary funding for apprenticeship grants to States, industry, and community based organizations to build capacity to develop or expand registered apprenticeship programs.

EQUIPPING EVERY CHILD WITH A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

Americans must be prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in the 21st Century economy. Expanding educational opportunities is critical to equipping all children with these skills and positioning them to succeed as adults. The Budget therefore includes investments and initiatives to improve all levels of education, from early childhood education through college.

Expanding Access to High-Quality Early Childhood Education. High-quality child care and early education for young children serves two important functions: it supports parents in the workforce and it helps support healthy child development and school readiness. The Budget expands access to high-quality early childhood education while also investing in innovation and evaluation to continue to build the evidence base about what works for our youngest learners. The Budget:

- **Expands access to quality, affordable child care.** The Administration proposes a historic investment in child care to ensure that quality, affordable care is available to all eligible low- and moderate-income working families with young children, as opposed to the small share of children who receive this help today. This proposal will expand access to high-quality care for more than 1.1 million additional children under age four by 2025 and help States build a supply of quality care that families can access. The Budget also includes funding to help States implement the changes required by the new bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 and for competitive pilot projects to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative models of providing care that meet the needs of working families.
- **Cuts taxes for families paying for child care with a credit of up to \$3,000 per child.** The Budget triples the maximum Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) for families with children under age five and makes the full CDCTC available to families with incomes of up to \$120,000, benefiting families with young children, older children, and dependents who are elderly or have disabilities. Meanwhile, the Budget would eliminate tax preferences for flexible spending accounts (FSAs) for child care expenses, which are poorly targeted and complex, reinvesting the savings in the improved CDCTC. The child care tax reforms would benefit 5.1 million families, helping them cover costs for 6.7 million children.
- **Increases the duration of Head Start programs and invests in high quality infant and toddler care.** The Budget expands access to high-quality care for tens of thousands of additional infants and toddlers through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and provides over \$1 billion in additional funding for Head Start to make sure children are served in full-day, full-year programs that research shows lead to better outcomes for children.
- **Supports universal preschool.** The Preschool for All initiative, in partnership with the States, provides all four-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families with access to high-quality preschool, while encouraging States to expand those programs to reach additional children from middle-class families and establish full-day kindergarten policies.
- **Lays the groundwork for Preschool for All.** The Budget provides \$750 million for the Department of Education's Preschool Development Grants, a substantial increase of \$500 million over the 2015 level. Preschool Development Grants are currently helping 18 States develop and expand high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities; the Budget will increase that number to over 40 States.
- **Invests in voluntary, evidence-based home visiting.** The Budget extends and expands evidence-based, voluntary home visiting programs, building on research showing that home visits by a nurse, social worker, or other professional during pregnancy and in the early years of life can significantly reduce child abuse and neglect, improve parenting, and promote child development and school readiness.

Advancing K-12 Reforms through Programs Showing Results. Over the past six years, the Administration has worked with States and school districts to help all children meet rigorous college- and career ready standards. To reach that goal, the Administration has promoted evidence-based initiatives that improve low-performing schools and support effective teaching and school leadership. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia have raised standards for learning in their schools and are supporting the hard work teachers and principals are doing to enable their students to succeed. Innovation, data analysis, and evaluation have been key to these efforts. And, the signs of progress are clear: the high school graduation rate is the highest on record and students are making academic gains.

The Budget continues to invest in priority education programs, in ways that will make a difference for students. The Budget:

- **Ensures Equity of Opportunity.** Title I is the Department of Education's largest K-12 grant program and the cornerstone of its commitment to supporting low-income schools with the funding necessary to provide high-need students with access to an excellent education. The Budget provides \$15.4 billion, a \$1 billion increase, for this program. In addition, the Budget proposes \$100 million to support districts that are using their Federal formula funds for evidence-based interventions, and includes a pilot opportunity for districts that equitably distribute State, local and Federal funds to schools to receive relief from federal reporting and fiscal requirements
- **Improves Outcomes for Students with Disabilities.** The Budget includes \$11.7 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants to States, a \$175 million increase, to help states pay the additional costs of special education, and implement a new "Results Driven Accountability" system that will ensure districts focus on improving outcomes for students with disabilities.
- **Supports our Teachers.** To build on the major reforms States have made in their teacher and principal evaluation policies, the Budget directs \$3 billion towards the goals of preparing teachers for success in the classroom and supporting that success throughout their career. This investment includes \$200 million for an improved Education Technology State Grants program focused on providing educators with training and support to maximize the impact of expanded access to technology to provide high-quality, personalized instruction to students. The Budget also supports a companion initiative funded at \$1 billion annually for five years in mandatory funding that will support bold, comprehensive State and local efforts to attract the best candidates to the teaching profession and prepare them for the demands of the classroom, while also creating a culture of excellence and professional growth for teachers throughout their careers.
- **Builds Evidence and Encouraging Innovation.** The Budget funds the Investing in Innovation program at \$300 million, a \$180 million increase over 2015 enacted, to develop and test effective practices and provide better information to States and districts on what works in key areas such as implementing college- and career-ready standards, using data to inform instruction and personalize learning, and improving low-performing schools.
- **Creates Great Schools.** A new \$125 million competitive program will promote the re-design of America's high schools by integrating deeper learning, student-centered instruction, and career-related experiences, with a particular focus on science, technology, engineering, and

math (STEM) themed high schools that expand opportunities for girls and other groups underrepresented in STEM fields. The Budget invests \$556 million, a \$50 million increase over 2015 enacted, in School Improvement Grants, to expand the use of evidence-based approaches to turning around our lowest performing schools, including high schools with unacceptably low graduation rates. The Budget also provides \$375 million for Charter Schools, an additional \$122 million, to significantly increase the expansion and replication of high-quality charter schools in high-need communities.

- **Implements Neighborhood-based Strategies.** The Budget provides \$150 million to support current Promise Neighborhoods and create up to 25 more to support local partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive, neighborhood-based plans for meeting the cradle-to-career educational, health, and social service needs of children and families in high-poverty communities
- **Improves STEM Education.** The Budget invests \$3 billion to improve STEM education across the government. This includes \$202 million for Department of Education's K-12 Math and Science Partnerships and \$135 million for improving undergraduate education at the National Science Foundation.
- **Keeps Our Schools Safe.** The Budget continues support for the President's plan to reduce gun violence and increase school safety, by providing more than \$80 million to help schools create safer and more nurturing school climates through evidence-based behavioral intervention practices, provide support and services to children exposed to pervasive violence, and provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices on school safety and climate.

Making a High-Quality College Education More Affordable. An estimated two-thirds of job openings will require some postsecondary education and training by 2020. The President has placed a high priority on making college affordable and helping Americans obtain a meaningful college certificate or degree. Beginning in 2009, the Administration has increased the maximum Pell Grant by more than \$1,000, to \$5,775 in school year 2015-16, and provided additional tax benefits to help families pay for college. The Administration ended subsidies to banks under the guaranteed student loan program and reinvested those savings to help more students and families afford college with increased funding to the Pell Grant program. In addition, the Administration has expanded income-driven repayment options, such as the President's Pay As You Earn plan, to help more borrowers manage their student loan debt. In 2013, the Department of Education introduced the College Scorecard to provide critical information about college value to assist prospective students and their families in the college search and selection process, and the President announced the development of a college ratings system to identify colleges providing the best value and encourage all colleges to improve.

The Budget builds on this progress and charts a path forward on the President's plan to make college more affordable. The Budget:

- **Provides Tuition-Free Community College for Responsible Students.** The President's America's College Promise proposal makes community college free for responsible students, enabling them to earn a certificate, an associate's degree or up to two years' worth of credits towards a bachelor's degree without paying any tuition or fees. Everyone will be required to do their part: 1) states must invest more in higher education and training 2) community colleges

must strengthen their programs and increase the number of students who graduate, and 3) students must take responsibility for their education, earn good grades, and stay on track to graduate. Students would continue to qualify for federal student aid (including Pell grants), which could help cover other costs of attendance, such as books, supplies, housing, and transportation.

- **Ensures that Pell Grants Keep Pace with Inflation.** Pell Grants are central to our efforts to help low and moderate income students afford college. In the 2014-15 award year, Pell Grants provided an estimated \$31 billion in college aid to 8.2 million students. Since 2013, Pell Grants have been adjusted for inflation annually, but unless Congress acts, this will end in 2017 and the value of Pell Grants will start to erode, making it even harder for families to afford college. The Budget addresses this, supporting the continued indexing of Pell Grants, to ensure that their value is not eroded by inflation.
- **Keeps Student Loans Manageable.** The Administration is helping student borrowers with existing debt manage their obligations through income-driven repayment plans, such as the Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) plan, which cap student loan payments at 10 percent of monthly discretionary income. The Department of Education has contacted struggling borrowers to make sure they are aware of these new options, and ensured that they have the information they need to choose the best one to help them responsibly manage their debt. The Budget proposes to extend PAYE to all student borrowers and reform the PAYE terms to ensure that the program is well-targeted and to safeguard the program for the future.
- **Simplifies Education Tax Benefits for All Students and Families.** While the creation of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) in 2009 made college more affordable for millions of students and their families, our system of tax incentives for higher education is complex, and families are sometimes unable to take full advantage of the benefits. Building on bipartisan reform proposals, the Budget would simplify, consolidate, and better target tax-based financial aid. It would cut taxes for 8.5 million families and students, simplify taxes for the more than 25 million families and students that claim education tax benefits, and provide students working toward a college degree with up to \$2,500 of assistance each year for five years.
- **Supports Minority Serving Institutions and College Access for Minority Youth.** The Budget sustains funding for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and increases funding for TRIO. These programs help disadvantaged students prepare for, enroll, and complete postsecondary education. The increase in funding would support a TRIO Demonstration Initiative to test new approaches to foster college success. The Budget also provides a 30 percent set-aside for Minority-Serving Institutions in the \$200 million First in the World competition to drive innovations in higher education that increase college completion, value, and affordability.
- **Drives Performance and Innovation in Higher Education.** To drive performance and improve outcomes in higher education, the Budget:
 - Expands the First in the World fund to \$200 million, to identify and expand promising and evidenced-based innovations and practices at colleges and universities across the country to dramatically improve educational outcomes for all students and make college more affordable;

- Provides new College Opportunity and Graduation Bonuses to reward colleges that successfully enroll and graduate a significant number of low- and moderate-income students;
- Proposes a new \$200 million CTE Innovation Fund to create the American Technical Training Fund, which would provide competitive grants to support the development, operation and expansion of evidence-based training programs, in partnership with industry, for skilled jobs in high-demand fields that provide a path to the middle class for low-income individuals; and
- Strengthens academic progress requirements in the Pell Grant program to encourage students to complete their studies on time.

HELPING OUR MOST VULNERABLE YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Supporting National Service. The Budget supports a record 90,150 AmeriCorps members, 12,500 more members than projected in 2015. These members support the efforts of nonprofit organizations to address a wide range of critical community challenges, from disaster response to homelessness to low-performing schools. The Budget encourages people from all ages and backgrounds to serve in AmeriCorps. In particular it expands opportunities for seniors to serve through AmeriCorps and creates 13,000 summer positions for disconnected youth that can serve as pathways to higher education and employment.

Helping Disconnected Youth Get Back on Track. The Budget provides \$3 billion for the Connecting for Opportunity initiative, which offers youth additional summer- and year-round subsidized job opportunities and supports competitive grants to municipalities to engage disconnected youth in school and work. Additionally, the Budget provides funding for 13,000 summer positions for disconnected youth through AmeriCorps, giving young people an opportunity to earn a living stipend and an educational award for college expenses.

The Budget also authorizes up to 10 new Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth. Building on provisions in FY 2014 and FY 2015 appropriations bills, this would create a third round of pilots letting States, tribes, and localities blend certain discretionary funding and receive waivers under multiple youth-serving programs in order to improve education, employment, and other key outcomes, building evidence about more effective ways to help vulnerable youth. Based on the promise of this model, the Administration worked with Congress to expand this pilot authority to an additional agency in FY 2015. The first pilots will be selected this spring or summer.

Promoting Responsible Parenthood by Modernizing Child Support. The Administration is taking steps to modernize the child support program, which touches the lives of one in four American children and half of all poor children. In 2014, the Administration proposed the first comprehensive regulatory overhaul of the child support program in years, to ensure that our enforcement tools are strong and effective. The Budget builds on this progress by proposing a comprehensive package of legislative reforms to complement executive actions, including a proposal to make sure more child support reaches children rather than being retained by the federal and state governments to "pay back" past assistance the child received.

Renewing Efforts to Promote Juvenile Justice and Fight Youth Violence. The Budget proposes \$339 million for the Justice Department's Juvenile Justice Programs and includes evidence-based investments to prevent youth violence. These investments include \$18 million to fund the Community-

Based Violence Prevention Initiative; \$4 million for the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention to help further leverage and scale Federal efforts that support youth violence prevention; and \$30 million for the new Smart on Juvenile Justice initiative that will provide incentive grants to assist States to foster better outcomes for justice-involved youth. Further, the Budget makes available \$23 million for research and pilot projects focused on developing appropriate responses for youth exposed to violence, as well as resources for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE) Initiative.

Improving Services for Children and Individuals with Disabilities. The Budget includes \$20 million for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) program, which make it easier for Americans nation-wide to learn about and access their health and long-term services and support options. ADRCs support state efforts to create consumer-friendly entry points into long-term care at the community level. Additionally, the Budget supports the Administration for Community Living's new initiative to develop best practices and an evidence base to better support young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they transition from adolescence into young adulthood across all systems - health, education, employment, human services, and community living.

Preventing Hunger. The Administration strongly supports the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other programs that reduce hunger and help families meet their nutritional needs. SNAP is the cornerstone of our Nation's nutrition assistance safety net, touching the lives of nearly 47 million Americans, the majority of whom are children, the elderly, or people with disabilities. Recent research has shown that SNAP not only helps families put food on the table, but it has a positive long-term impact on children's health and education outcomes. In addition to supporting SNAP, the Budget also invests \$67 million to support summer electronic benefit transfer (EBT) pilots, which are proving successful in reducing childhood hunger and improving nutrition in the months when school meals are unavailable.

Supporting Healthy Eating. The Budget supports the ongoing implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 with an investment of \$35 million in school equipment grants, \$10 million above the 2015 enacted level, to aid in the provision of healthy meals. The Budget provides \$6.6 billion to support the 8.5 million individuals expected to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which is critical to the health of pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children. The Budget also provides funding for the Administration's Healthy Food Financing Initiative to increase the availability of affordable, healthy food options in underserved communities, including \$35 million in grants through the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and \$13 million through USDA's Healthy Food Financing Initiative authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014, which more than doubles Government-wide support above the 2015 enacted level.

Partnering With Communities to Expand Opportunity. The Budget supports the Administration's Promise Zones initiative, which forms partnerships among the Federal Government, local communities, and businesses to create jobs; increase economic security; expand educational opportunities; increase access to quality, affordable housing; and improve public safety. The President named the first five Promise Zones in 2014 and will designate an additional 15 Zones by the end of calendar year 2016. In support of Promise Zones, the Budget requests \$250 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods program and \$150 million for the Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods program. The Budget also includes Promise Zone

tax incentives to stimulate growth and investments in targeted communities, such as tax credits for hiring workers and incentives for capital investment within the Zones.

The Budget also includes \$50 million for the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) community facilities grants program to address ongoing needs and emerging priorities, including Promise Zones, Energy Sector Transition, Generation Indigenous, and Strike Force Communities. The community facilities program targets grants and direct loans to rural communities with fewer than 20,000 residents. These funds will allow USDA to be responsive to new needs in communities across rural America and target them in a flexible way. In addition, the Budget includes \$2.2 billion in community facilities direct loans.

Supporting Affordable Rental Housing for 4.7 million Families. Housing assistance not only helps families make ends meet, it can help families move to communities with greater opportunities and can increase housing stability. The Budget includes \$21.1 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher program (\$1.8 billion more than the 2015 enacted level) to help approximately 2.4 million low-income families afford decent housing in neighborhoods of their choice. In addition to supporting all existing vouchers, the Budget provides funding to restore approximately 67,000 incremental vouchers lost in 2013 due to sequestration, including new vouchers to provide housing assistance to families, veterans, and tribal families experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic or dating violence, youth aging out of foster care, and families with children in the foster care system for whom assistance could facilitate reunification. HUD will work with the appropriate agencies so that wraparound services are provided to these populations. The Budget also includes \$10.8 billion for the Project-Based Rental Assistance program to maintain affordable rental housing for 1.2 million families, and \$6.5 billion in operating and capital subsidies to preserve affordable public housing for 1.1 million families, an increase of \$0.2 billion over the 2015 enacted level. Further, the Budget provides \$50 million for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), which leverages private financing to reduce backlogs of capital repairs. These funds will be targeted to public housing properties in high-poverty neighborhoods, including designated Promise Zones, where the Administration is also supporting comprehensive revitalization efforts.

Ending Homelessness. In partnership with communities across the country, the Administration has made significant progress toward the President's ambitious goals of ending homelessness, especially among veterans. Major cities, including Salt Lake City, Utah and Phoenix, Arizona, have ended chronic homelessness among veterans. And in January, New Orleans, Louisiana became the first major American city to end veteran homelessness entirely. Nationally, veteran homelessness is down 33 percent and the total number of people experiencing chronic homelessness on a single night is down 21 percent from 2010 to 2014.

With continued focus from Federal, state and local partners, we are on a path to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. The Budget includes \$2.5 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants, which will support 15,000 additional families through rapid rehousing and an estimated 25,500 new units of permanent supportive housing targeted to the chronically homeless. These funds, in coordination with the targeted special purpose Housing Choice Vouchers, will support the Administration's efforts to end chronic homelessness in 2017 and to make significant progress in ending homelessness across all other populations.

Supporting President's "Now is the Time" Initiative. The Budget supports the "Now is the Time" initiative, the President's plan to protect our children and communities by reducing gun violence

through additional background checks, inspections of Federally-licensed firearms dealers, improved tracing and ballistics analysis, and efforts to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals. The Budget provides training for State and local law enforcement to prevent and respond to active shooters and prevent mass casualties, and continues the Comprehensive School Safety Program and other initiatives to enhance school security. The Budget also expands access to mental health services for young people by training more behavioral health care providers and investing in programs that identify mental health issues early and refer those in need to help.

Building Ladders of Opportunity for Boys and Young Men. Last year the President launched *My Brother's Keeper*, a new initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. An interagency task force is working to improve how the Federal Government's own policies and programs can better support these efforts. Hundreds of local governments, philanthropies, and local businesses have responded to the President's call to action to implement their own cradle-to-college-and-career strategies for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. The Budget provides support for many efforts that will help achieve the goals of the My Brother's Keeper initiative, including youth jobs programs, juvenile justice reforms, initiatives to curb the high school dropout rate for disconnected youth, investments in community college and efforts to improve postsecondary education success, and technical assistance to communities working to improve life outcomes to put all youth in America on a path to success.

Supporting Children and Youth in Foster Care. As part of the Administration's efforts to provide support for stable homes and strong support structures for vulnerable children and youth, the Budget includes a package of proposals to help improve the lives of children and youth in foster care and to help them reach their full potential. The Budget includes \$1.4 billion in new mandatory funding to provide preventative services to vulnerable families and children to address hardships early, keeping more children out of foster care and with their families, to promote family-based care for children with behavioral and mental health needs to reduce the use of congregate care and ensure it is used only when necessary, and for tribes to build their child welfare infrastructure and for tribal children and youth removed from their homes to remain in their communities. Additionally, the Budget includes \$50 million in new discretionary funding to develop best practices for child protection investigations, to provide comprehensive services to youth in the child welfare system who are victims of or at-risk of human trafficking, and to build capacity and strengthen the services of tribal and rural child welfare systems.

Rural Youth Poverty. The Budget includes funding for a new program to combat rural youth poverty. Rural childhood poverty rates are at their highest point since 1986 one in four children live in poverty. Deep poverty among children is more prevalent in rural areas (12.2 percent) than in urban areas (9.2 percent). To help alleviate this growing disparity the Budget provides \$20 million to support innovative strategies to combat rural child poverty by focusing on both children and the parents with a bundled services approach.

ENSURING QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Extending the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) currently serves over 8 million children of working parents who are not eligible for Medicaid. The Budget proposes to extend funding for CHIP, which ends in 2015, through 2019, ensuring continued, comprehensive, affordable coverage for these children.

Improving Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs provide health and long-term care coverage to more than 70 million low income Americans. The Budget strengthens these critical programs by giving States options to streamline eligibility determination and help people get and maintain coverage, expanding targeted benefits for adults and children, and improving care delivery for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. The Budget expands access to Medicaid home and community-based services, and tests a new approach to delivering long-term care services and supports. In addition, the Budget provides tools to States, Territories, and the Federal government to fight fraud, waste, and abuse, and includes other initiatives aimed at improving program efficiency and effectiveness.

Implementing the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has taken significant steps toward putting the Nation back on a sustainable fiscal course while laying the foundation for a higher quality, more secure health care system. Through premium tax credit and cost sharing assistance to make coverage affordable and increased Federal support to States expanding Medicaid coverage for newly eligible low-income adults, ACA ensures that every American can access high-quality, affordable coverage, providing health insurance to millions of Americans who would otherwise be uninsured, and strengthening coverage for those who already had insurance.

Now in the second year of full ACA implementation, millions of people have enrolled in either private insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace or for coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Additionally, millions more young adults already have gained coverage under the health care law by staying on their parents' plans until their 26th birthday.

While there is much more work to be done, we now live in an era where no child will be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition like asthma. No American will have to worry that losing a job means you can't get health coverage. And small businesses may be able to get financial help to pay for new affordable coverage options for their employees.

The challenges in our health care system were decades in the making and will not be solved overnight, but millions of Americans have signed up for insurance and are getting the peace of mind of knowing that they can get the care they need without losing everything they have worked and saved for. And Americans across the country have new options with health plans that give them the security of knowing that if they want to change jobs or start their own business, they will have access to affordable health insurance for their family.

Improving and Expanding Access to Mental Health Services for Native Youth. The Budget includes \$50 million in new resources to enhance behavioral health services for Native youth in tribal communities as part of the Generation Indigenous Initiative.

Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Medicaid. The Budget also makes targeted improvements to the Medicaid program to increase access to mental health services, particularly for

youth. The Budget establishes a new Medicaid demonstration project in partnership with the Administration for Children and Families to encourage States to provide evidence-based psychosocial interventions to children and youth in foster care, to reduce over-prescription of psychotropic medications that are disproportionately prescribed to foster children and improve outcomes for these young people. The Budget works to ensure Medicaid enrollees receive the most appropriate care, by improving access to mental health services in the community for youth.